



EXHIBIT 2  
**VANDER MEER'S WILDLAND** DATE 2/1/07  
**CONSERVATION SERVICES** HB 388

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**January 31, 2007**

Chairman Sinrud and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask your support for HB388. This initiative will promote the state's investment in ecological restoration; sure to provide future economic and ecologic benefits.

I own and operate several small businesses that specialize in ecological restoration. Watershed Consulting, based in Whitefish specializes in stream and riparian work, [www.watershedconsulting.com](http://www.watershedconsulting.com). Wildland Conservation Services based in Missoula emphasizes forest restoration and sawmilling, [www.vanwild.com](http://www.vanwild.com).

There are dozens of similar businesses throughout the state. We are fortunate to possess a skilled workforce to match the tasks at hand.

In addition to my business interests, I am also the Northern Rockies Regional Coordinator for the National Network of Forest Practitioners, [www.NNFP.org](http://www.NNFP.org). Our mission is to promote the mutual well being of workers, rural communities, and forests by supporting individuals and groups that build sustainable relationships between forests and people.

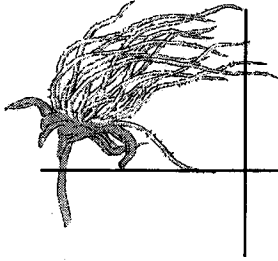
There is a firm link between ecologic restoration and socio economic stability and sustainability. Support for restoration is support for the well-being of our rural communities.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Vander Meer

- Forester
- Restoration Ecologist
- Soil Scientist



# GEUM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.

307 State Street  
P.O. Box 1956  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
Phone: (406) 363-2353, Fax (406) 363-3015  
<http://www.geumconsulting.com>

January 31, 2007

Chairman Sinrud and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Sacry and I am a partner in a small ecological consulting firm based in the Bitterroot Valley. I am writing in support for HB388. It is my understanding that this initiative will promote the state's investment in ecological restoration through crediting additional funds to the Environmental Contingency Account and allowing state agencies to use State Orphan Share Account monies to pay for environmental clean up under the state superfund law. I feel this initiative will provide significant economic and ecological benefits to local communities and the state of Montana.

Our business focuses on stream, wetland and riparian restoration. Since our inception in the fall of 2004, we have seen a steady increase in restoration related revenue. In response to this increase in restoration related work we have expanded our work force both on a seasonal and permanent basis and found that many of the companies we partner with and hire have also expanded their capacities and infrastructure to take on restoration related projects. We have found no shortage in a well educated, highly skilled work force eager to further the positive trend of ecological restoration in the state. I feel strongly that bolstering available funding sources for ecological restoration will provide a similar economic response state wide.

I have found, in our restoration related work that a diverse pool of labor, and grass roots organizations are a common theme. There is an increasing general public awareness for ecological restoration and involvement in supporting and participating in ecological restoration activities at various levels. It has been my experience that local communities and labor forces take ownership of restoration related projects within their community which further promotes public interest and fuels local economies. This awareness leads to diverse partnerships, implementation of ecological restoration and broader collaborative scales and increased ecological, social and economic returns. One common challenge to all partnerships and individuals seeking to restore ecological goods and services in various forms is the availability of funding to assist with all the necessary phases of implementing scientifically sound restoration practices on the ground. For this reason, passing initiatives such as HB388 will be imperative to furthering a restoration supported economy in Montana.

As our population continues to grow and sprawl into the surrounding environment, our streams and riparian zones will continue to suffer enormous impacts. These impacts carry an ecological and economic price tag. The need for continued restoration of existing impacts and mitigation of future impacts will not subside and must be addressed through a matched increase in funding and state wide support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Sacry  
Biologist  
Geum Environmental Consulting, Inc.



February 1, 2007

Representative John Sinrud, Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: HB 388

Dear Representative Sinrud and members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation (MAEDC) is a private, non-profit local economic development organization. We have about 80 business members, and nine community members (the City of Missoula, Missoula County, The University of Montana, the Missoula Airport Authority, the Missoula Chamber of Commerce, the Missoula Convention and Business Bureau, the Missoula Downtown Association, Missoula County Public Schools, and the Missoula Area Labor and Trades Council).

Our organization supports HB 388 and we encourage the Appropriations Committee to give this bill a "do pass" recommendation. Due to other commitments, I am unable to attend the hearing today, so I have prepared a few written comments for your consideration.

Through an agreement with the City of Missoula, our organization administers a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) that is dedicated to lending funds necessary for environmental clean-up projects on Brownfields sites. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded a \$1 million grant to the City, which we matched with \$200,000 from an existing loan fund, creating a total capitalization of \$1.2 million for the Brownfields RLF. This is the first such fund in Montana. We have approved one loan to date.

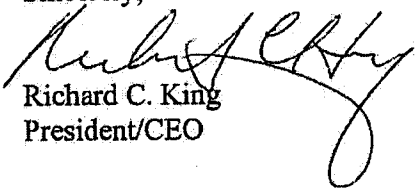
Our first loan is being made to the developer who will complete the clean-up of the Missoula Sawmill Site (formerly the location of the Champion International lumber mill). Our loan commitment is \$1 million; the borrower has committed to provide another \$200,000 for the clean-up and has expended about \$800,000 to date in other costs related to this project. When the clean-up is complete, the City and the Missoula Redevelopment Agency, along with the developer, will expend approximately \$18 million to install public infrastructure, walking/bicycle trails, and parkland. In short, the Brownfields RLF has already leveraged a substantial amount of other funding.

Redevelopment of the 45-acre site will result in about \$130 million of new construction, including both residential and commercial.

The purpose of the Brownfields RLF is to assist property owners to redevelop sites that have require environmental clean-up but are not federal or state super-fund sites. There are many such sites in Montana. HB 388 would provide a much-needed resource to help local organizations develop the necessary expertise and assemble the resources needed to complete clean-up projects on Brownfields sites across Montana. This is especially important in rural Montana. We have identified about twenty Brownfields sites in Northwest Montana that would be good candidates for cleanup and redevelopment, for example. Dozens of other sites can be found across the entire state.

Redevelopment of these sites can produce dramatic economic development benefits, as evidenced by the Missoula Sawmill Site clean-up. But, these are very complicated projects. It took our organization about 18 months to process a loan application and complete loan documents, which had to be approved by EPA. The cleanup is being conducted in accordance with a Voluntary Cleanup Plan that is currently being reviewed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. If we are to facilitate cleanup projects in other communities in Montana, financial assistance is needed to build local capacity and expertise. HB 388 would be a major step in that direction.

Sincerely,



Richard C. King  
President/CEO

State of Montana House Appropriations Committee  
Hearing on HB 388

February 1, 2007

Testimony of James Burchfield, Associate Dean, College of Forestry and Conservation,  
University of Montana-Missoula

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon in support of HB 388.

I urge you to give careful consideration to HB 388 and the benefits that it will provide to Montanans. HB 388 is about renewable resource restoration. It will be a stimulus to Montana's economy by creating high wage jobs; it will encourage additional and ongoing investment in Montana's communities through immediate improvements in community infrastructure; and it will encourage long-term economic growth by revitalizing Montana's precious watersheds, wildlife habitats, forests, and grasslands.

Let me provide a commonly used definition so we may understand what restoration means. Restoration is the process of reestablishing to the extent possible the structure, function, and integrity of indigenous ecosystems and the sustaining habitats they provide. It sustains human communities and the cultures that these communities nurture. It invests in the future by learning and respecting the past.

Restoration is also about rethinking our place on the land and the growth sectors in our economy. These areas of growth are frequently identified – housing, tourism, trade, energy, and commercial development. Support to these growth sectors requires investments into their design and their operation, and it requires both people and skills to make it happen. We have the good fortune in Montana to already possess many of these people and skills. Our existing talent in timber management, construction, and heavy equipment operation is more than capable in accomplishing tasks in residential and commercial development, watershed restoration, and forest management. What we lack, and what HB 388 provides, is modest seed capital to leverage additional investments in restoration, allowing all Montanans, now and in the future, to reap the benefits of healthy watersheds, vital forests, and sustainable, livable communities.

Restoration investment is investment in Montana – creating communities and surrounding landscapes that are attractive to Montana businesses and residences. Let me provide an example from a sector with which I'm familiar. Forest operations in Montana have moved well beyond the much publicized "timber wars." Our friends in the conservation and logging industries have come together to agree on a new overriding purpose of forest management, which we call "stewardship." It means modifying the density and structure of forest stands such that they are more resilient to insects and diseases, more adaptive to disturbances like wildfire, and more aligned with the

requirements of tree growth such that they are more productive. Stewardship operations in the forest are really restoration operations -- in the process of recreating this new structure and density, they provide income generation opportunities from the harvest of both sawtimber and roundwood. This provides jobs, income, and revenue for the state. Interestingly, we are also now seeing that these restoration operations can produce biomass for energy, so instead of stored carbon in trees being burned in wildfires or brush piles, this biomass heats our schools or homes, reducing our energy dependence on fossil fuels and providing a cornerstone in our strategy to address global warming.

Research programs from Montana universities on restoration design and evaluation also contribute to the Montana economy. Restoration sciences are growing elements in research portfolios, which bring in significant external funding and provide new opportunities for jobs for Montana students. Restoration research and education has stimulated growing faculty cooperation between Montana State University and The University of Montana for 364 days a year (there is one Saturday before Thanksgiving where we tend to look less favorably on each other).

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, restoration investments protect and sustain for future generations Montana's private property. Montanans are land stewards, but if state government wishes to help property owners, investments in restoration technologies, tools, and projects are far more effective than tax abatements could ever be. Restoration of Montana's lands and waters increases property values, provides more highly productive soils, more stable water supplies, and greater agricultural and forestry yields. The need to provide statewide support to restoration is evident for all landowners, and the leadership provided by this committee to become investment partners for Montana's property owners will be this legislature's greatest legacy.

Thank you, again, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to testify on this important bill.